

Filed for intro on 05/17/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0231
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor Ken Barker on his selection as
Outstanding Principal of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary individuals who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Thrasher Elementary School's Ken Barker is one such remarkable person, a voice of integrity in education; and

WHEREAS, because of his superlative leadership abilities and unfailing commitment to excellence, Mr. Ken Barker has deservedly received the highest laurel bestowed upon an elementary school principal in this state, Elementary School Principal of the Year by the state Parent-Teacher Association (PTA); and

WHEREAS, with twelve years of classroom teaching experience, Mr. Barker thinks of himself as "a teacher who happens to be an administrator"; Mr. Barker embarked on his noteworthy career as an American History teacher and football coach at Ooltewah Middle School and Lookout Valley Junior High School before becoming principal at White Oak Elementary School; prior to his experience at Thrasher, he was principal at Daisy Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker has served his students with enthusiasm, industry and singular acumen; the Thrasher PTA president says that “he visits every classroom on a regular basis, and has that rare blend of humor and humility that immediately puts everyone at ease; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker is an extremely patient and giving person who motivates his students to reach their full potential; he has been known to arrive at assembly dressed as George Washington, complete with a powdered wig, or Christopher Columbus in tights, all to inspire the youngsters under his charge; and

WHEREAS, a sagacious leader and inspiring visionary, Mr. Barker has embarked on an aggressive technology campaign for the school, making sure equipment is state-of-the-art and training for students and teachers is up-to-date; and

WHEREAS, perhaps his less visible acts of kindness and concern endear him most to students, teachers and parents: Mr. Barker labored night and day to help the school recover from a fire last January, and in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, Mr. Barker spent countless hours helping students to understand the disaster and initiated a firearm awareness program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barker knows full well that parental involvement is the key to educational success and he makes every effort to gain and retain the support of parents; he is actively involved in Thrasher’s PTA and attends each and every PTA board meeting; and

WHEREAS, in two short years, Mr. Barker has proven himself to be more than capable of the herculean task of leading a large elementary school with more than 525 students; during his tenure there, the school has received a second National School of Excellence award; and

WHEREAS, for his years of immeasurable benefit to our state, our children, parents and teachers, it is certainly appropriate that this body pause in its deliberations to convey our most sincere appreciation to Mr. Barker; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That we hereby honor Mr. Ken Barker on receiving the prestigious Outstanding Elementary School Principal of the Year award from the state PTA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.